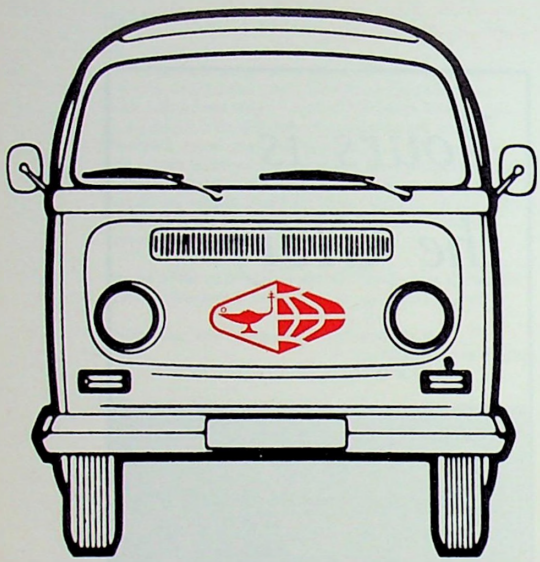
The monthly magazine
of Toc H
7p March 1971

POINT THREE

'Oh look that's Toc H'



Is your branch one of the many constantly missing out on a splendid chance of improving public knowledge about the Movement by not using the approved symbol?

A few, but only a few, can testify to the fact that since using the symbol to achieve a clearcut public face, awareness of their local work has improved beyond recognition.

The public relations office is eager to share knowledge of corporate identity ideas and discuss a new range of branch signs, self-adhesive vehicle signs and symbol blocks for use on printed items. Look around your branch room **this week** and advise the PR office of your needs.

Remember **Prices Come Down as Demand Goes Up.**

Write or telephone Huw Gibbs,
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Toc H members accept a four-fold commitment:
1 To build friendships across the barriers that divide man from man
2 To give personal service
3 To find their own convictions while always being willing to listen to the views of others
4 To work for the building of that better world which has been called the Kingdom of God.
This magazine, which acts as a forum for ideas about Toc H and about the world in which we live, takes its title from the third of these Four Points–to think fairly.

On the cover:
Camping is not something these boys were used to back home in Pakistan, but they're fast becoming enthusiastic about it. They belong to the youth club run by the residents of Talbot House, Tower Hill. Further pictures of this camp, held in Croydon, appear on page 133.
Photo: Geoff Ibbotson.

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Letters and articles are welcomed but the opinions expressed therein are not necessarily those of the Toc H Movement.

Advertising: Display and classified advertisements are included in this magazine. Full rates and data can be obtained from the editorial office.

VIEWPOINT

Spaceship Earth

Whoever invented the word 'ecology' did his cause a great deal of harm. One knows that it's something worthy, of course, but one's not quite sure what. It doesn't exactly stir the blood. Television has done its best to bring home to us the evils of pollution and the dangers to the environment, but neither the fictional horrors of *Doomwatch* nor the factual, and even more horrific, *Horizon* programmes, have succeeded in provoking a revolution in our patterns of thought and way of life. The issues are so complex, the predicted disasters so far in the future, that one is left feeling that the final catastrophe probably won't happen, that there's nothing we can do about it anyway and that the great god technology will surely come up with an answer in time.

To be fair it's probably the complexity of the subject rather than the obscurity of the word that is primarily responsible for our being left cold, rather than scared stiff, by these scientific equivalents of hell fire sermons. Nonetheless it may be that a new way of looking at the problem could make the issues clearer to those of us who form the complacent majority. And a new way of looking at the problem has been recently put forward by Scott Paradise, in a small magazine entitled *Audenshaw Papers*. Scott was a Winant Volunteer in the early 50s and is a member of the Iona Community. He worked with the Sheffield Industrial Mission in this country, with the Detroit Industrial Mission back home, and is now the leader of the Boston Industrial Mission.

Briefly his argument is that society at present is geared to continued increases in population and in the level of material affluence. Society is based on the belief that there will always be new frontiers, that there will always be new lands to conquer and new stocks of essential raw materials to discover. But this belief is out of date. We no longer live in an infinitely expanding world. We live on an earth which is limited, like a spaceship, with, writes Scott, 'finite resources for use and limited space for waste disposal'.

The realisation that the earth is like a spaceship brings with it the necessity for a quite different definition of the good life. To believe in an increasingly affluent society is no longer possible. Materialism is a creed that has had its day. 'The ideal of endlessly increasing consumption,' says Scott, 'gives way before the attempt to achieve an adequate level of material well-being with the minimum material consumption.'

If this kind of revolution in our aspirations is to be achieved a quite new approach to social justice will have to accompany it. 'The moral justification for the present vast economic inequality,' says Scott, 'rests on our expectation of growth and our belief in a "trickle down" theory. According to this theory the rich as they become richer brush more crumbs from their tables. And so the poor are helped. But recent history of world development and of the population explosion marks only minimal gains for the poor. By this process the gap between the rich and the poor widens, and the rich require a massive military establishment to protect their wealth. Such a state of affairs becomes even more questionable morally in a steady state or spaceship society. There justice depends on a high degree of economic equality. Such a society implies such new values and personal goals as to constitute a cultural transformation. We are now confronted with the profoundest questions of ethics and values, and it may indeed be argued that our crisis is essentially theological.'

Ecology remains a complex subject. The temptation to believe that the prophesied disasters won't really happen, that life will go on in the same old way, remains strong. A great many technical problems arise which only scientists and technologists are competent to discuss. The fact remains, however, that the basic issue is a simple one and that it lies in the realm of morals, not of science. The future fate of spaceship earth depends not just on the experts but on us. Are we willing to abandon our belief in the ever more affluent society and to accept the new conception of social justice that is demanded of us?

A spaceship is a small and fragile craft.

K P-B

World Chain of Light

This year's Chain will start in South Africa which means that branches in the United Kingdom take their place in the Chain on December 11.

Heard it all before ?

John Trimmer *A Kent Central Councillor*

For about four years I was dependent upon *Point Three* to keep me in the picture about Toc H in the UK and I gained the impression of purposeful if unspectacular progress. This, coupled with renewed enthusiasm gained from helping, in a small way, the lively and imaginative secretary of Toc H Victoria, led me to expect that the Central Council last Autumn would be focused upon a programme of action for the seventies. Certainly I did feel the immense potential of the Movement but this was outweighed by a feeling of the uncertainty and lack of co-ordination in the approach to the future.

Pondering on my reactions afterwards, I felt that it might be worth setting my thoughts on paper. I know that I may well be repeating much that has been said before, and have no illusions as to its originality, but by setting it on paper it might provoke response or even action.

There were two subjects discussed at the Council which really focused my attention upon the uncertainty of thinking and approach, namely Regionalisation and the Policy Statement of October 1969. In respect to the former, it seemed that some of the members were grasping at Regionalisation as a means of revitalising the Movement, by dividing it into groups whose interests and aims were more homogeneous than exists on a national basis. Equally this idea might simply mean that fundamental weaknesses were being tackled by juggling with the organisation: a trap into which many firms as well as societies have fallen. With regard to the Policy Statement, this implied the existence of a staff to be engaged in every facet of social problems as well as in dragging the membership screaming into the 70s.

Whatever the motive or object of these two approaches to the future, both were based upon assumptions about the size, wealth and capacity of the Movement which to me are at variance with the facts. We are in fact a Movement of 20,000, not 2,000,000. We are running our present level of activities at a loss, and I suspect would have faded away by now but for the generosity of friends and members of earlier days. In harsh reality I question that we can afford to suck out of branches and Districts the best of our talent to run yet another layer in the hierarchy or retain any worthwhile national image by spreading our staff over a wide field of differing activities.

In expressing this criticism, I am well aware of the dangers of generalisations and of attacking that which I love. I do feel, however, that we need yet again to take time off to think out our future in the light of what is needed to rejuvenate Toc H and to make it a force to be reckoned with in the years ahead.

Broadly speaking, the Movement has evolved into two main streams: 1. The 'professional' tier. This covers a sphere of action which calls for expertise in particular fields which can only be adequately provided, in this sophisticated age, by full-time staff.
2. The 'branch' tier. This activity, embracing the practical living out of the Four Points of the Compass, covers in terms of service, work within the competence of branches, bearing in mind the limited time and training of the membership. It also includes the desire of members to support efforts which they cannot undertake themselves: the work of the 'professional' tier.

This basic division of Toc H's contribution to the problems of today raises a number of important points, in the context of 'what' we ought to do and 'how' we should do it.

First, the membership is being asked to support projects far removed from their locality and sometimes far removed from their personal experience. Under such conditions involvement and therefore financial support is not easily obtained to the level really required. Against this background it is suggested that the 'professional' efforts of Toc H should be concentrated upon one or at most two fields of endeavour. Members can then feel that they are contributing to a really sizeable, recognisable and truly national effort, in which Toc H becomes a respected and acknowledged authority. In this way not only might the membership be more forthcoming in its support of the Family Purse, and thus increase the effort put into the task, but also have something concrete for which to appeal to the public. How many other members must have been left clutching at straws and half understood

projects when asked to say what Toc H does that is worthy of public support?

It is of course recognised that Toc H prides itself on meeting any need as it arises. This certainly leaves the field wide open for the organisation of branch service but does it really solve–or materially help to solve–any major social problem to spread our very limited resources so thinly over the whole spectrum of needs? Yes indeed it might if, as I indicated earlier, we were a Movement of 2,000,000–oh that we were! As we are not, a more limited goal might catch the imagination, say, in the manner of 'Shelter' or the Cheshire Homes.

Secondly, a high proportion of the membership is, like me, somewhat lethargic. The cosy rut of branch meetings after a hard day's work can become a little social cell in its own right. Whilst fulfilling some acts of service, some big, some small, whilst raising funds for local charities and the Family Purse, branches are dying off faster than new ones are being created. To move with vigour into the future calls for some new motivation and this in my view calls for 'professional' help. Not to bolster up the incurable, but, as indicated in the Policy Statement, to help unearth the leaders and to give positive and forthright direction–or for those who dislike the thought of having their peace disturbed–guidance (though with the boot if necessary!). If this action is not taken then Toc H has less than 10 years' useful life left.

What can be done? I think that the initiative needs to be taken by the Central Executive. The Executive, according to *The Signpost*, is vested with the control of the affairs of Toc H–including 'the definition and direction of policy within the Movement'. I believe we need a more precise and sharper policy and feel that the Central Executive should devote the rest of the period up to the next Central Council in preparing a real programme of development, for approval or amendment by the Council, which covers the use of resources over the next three or four years and provides the answers to the following questions:

1 What is the area of need in the community on which the Executive proposes the Movement should concentrate its energies at the 'professional' level?
2 How much money will be required from the membership to carry out the programme?
3 How much more money would be required to develop the programme more intensively and how badly will the programme suffer from any failure by members to give the required support?
4 What action is proposed to bring the programme before the public as a means of raising money and stimulating the extension of the Movement?
5 What plan of action is proposed for those staff available to assist the membership at large, to aid a more effective membership drive?
6 What changes if any are proposed in the administration of the Movement to increase the effective use of the limited staff at our disposal and to increase their interest?

In short, before dissipating our resources further on Regional chairmen, secretaries, treasurers, and scattering our staff over a myriad of tasks, let the Executive first take stock and then make their recommendations with clarity and conviction: the members generally would then have some genuine leaders and thinking to support.

Welcome Point

The following branches elected new members during May:

4–Hagley (m), Wigmore (m).

3–Ashby de la Zouch (w), Parkhurst (w), Redcar (w), Sunderland (j).

2–Aigburth (w), Brandon (w), Brigg (j), Higham Ferrers (w), Kennington (London) (m), Richmond (Yorks) (w), St John's (Tunbridge Wells) (w), Selkirk (m), Skegness (w), Sprowston (w), Swanage (w), Walsall (m).

1–Accrington (m), Aldwick (j), Broadstairs & St Peter's (m), Chepstow (w), Clacton-on-Sea (w), Colchester (w), Countess Wear (w), Durrington (w), Eltham (m), Hitchin (w), Horncastle (m), Jedburgh (m), Mablethorpe (j), Maidstone (m), Melton Mowbray (m), Preston Park (j), Rainham (m), Saltburn by Sea (m), Totnes (w), Uckfield (m), Wakefield (m), Wellington (Somerset) (m), Wolverton (m).

We extend a warm welcome to the 67 new members.

Personal Accident Insurance 1971

Those branches which have not yet paid the annual premium of 10p per person for 1971 should do so without any further delay, if they wish to remain in this reasonable and attractive scheme.

To make war morally impossible

This month's article in our series on voluntary work by young people is by Nancy Korman and features International Voluntary Service.

Keiko Katch, a Japanese volunteer, on a manual work project. Photo: Brighton Evening Argus

In 1920 a group of volunteers from France, Germany, Switzerland, Czechoslovakia, Holland and Great Britain undertook reconstruction of houses and preparation of land for farming in a small village near Verdun, France. This unique experiment was a response to a perennial problem of society–how can man make war morally impossible? From this beginning, Service Civil International was founded–an international organisation promoting understanding among peoples of different backgrounds, through practical service to communities.

Today, SCI has branches in 25 countries and International Voluntary Service (IVS) is its British representation. Through the past 50 years the work undertaken by SCI has varied to meet changing social conditions, expanded to different parts of the world, and developed to utilise the diverse skills and abilities of volunteers. Despite these changes, however, the basic principles of SCI have remained constant.

The aims of SCI have a lofty ring about them, almost 'pie in the sky'. Can anything be done to 'make war morally impossible'? We believe we can work for this ideal. If war begins in the minds of men, through suspicion, hatred, prejudice or ignorance, then peace will be possible only when these attitudes or states of mind are changed to understanding, sympathy and respect.

SCI is committed to bringing about these changes of attitude. It is not oriented to solving the housing problem or the difficulties of people in psychiatric hospitals or immigrants or migrant workers, or even providing technical assistance to developing countries. It works in all these fields, and many more besides, but uses these problems as projects on which volunteers of different nationalities, races, religious or political views, can join together for work. Through working on a project of mutual interest, the stereotyped ideas and misunderstandings we all have of people we don't know, can be broken down; differences can be respected while the common interests and aspirations are recognised.

In Britain, IVS offers to volunteers five different forms of service. For those over 21 years, and having a formal qualification or recognised experience in a particular trade, service in a developing country of Africa or Asia for two years may be a possibility. In 1970, IVS had 130 volunteers serving overseas on a tremendous variety of projects, only a small percentage of which were academic teaching posts. A brewer in Botswana, an experienced workcamp volunteer and builder working together as a team in the Seychelles on a self-help housing scheme, a commercial artist working for the Family Planning Association in Mauritius, librarians, carpenters, bricklayers, agriculturalists, metal-workers, engineers, mechanics, nurses and physiotherapists–all these are examples of the kinds of skills needed by the Third World. Besides doing the specific job for which they are qualified, overseas volunteers are expected to help organise workcamps involving the community in which they work, to show what can be accomplished through co-operative efforts. Several community service organisations have been established in developing countries as a result of these efforts.

Overseas service is not a one-way exchange; IVS welcomes volunteers from Europe, Asia and Africa to work in the UK for periods of six months to one year. The first Asian volunteer came over in 1963, and since then this exchange has become a regular part of our programme. In Birmingham, Leela Vathy Rao is spending a year working as part of a community development team in the Moseley area. She was recruited specifically for this project because of her skills as a qualified medical social worker and for the various Indian languages she speaks. When she returns to India her experience as a community worker will help the projects of the Indian branch of SCI. We hear so much of the assistance being given by Western nations to developing countries that people in Britain may be surprised to learn developing countries can help us to solve some of our problems.

BELOW LEFT. Mealtime at an international workcamp. BELOW RIGHT. A playhouse for children run by Bristol IVS group. Photos: IVS

In Europe, the problems of industrial societies centre on making known the difficulties of the handicapped, the ill, the elderly, the poor, and finding ways in which communities by their own efforts, can help. Volunteers can serve on two or three-week international workcamps, either in the UK or abroad, for six months on a specific project, or evenings or weekends as part of a local group (there are over 80 IVS groups in England, Scotland, and N Ireland).

International workcamps take place during the summer, with two or three at Christmas time. Main types of projects include organising recreational activities at psychiatric or sub-normal hospitals, running urban holiday play schemes, holiday camps for children, and several manual projects such as decorating for elderly or handicapped people or construction work in rural areas. Last year, 37 different nationalities were represented on camps during the summer.

Both the six month service and local group activities go on throughout the year. In addition to undertaking projects similar to those of international workcamps, local groups organise publicity drives, fund raising events and weekend workcamps with other IVS groups in their area. Some groups work in conjunction with their local authorities, others with other local voluntary bodies, and still others run their own projects in the community independently. All the groups choose their own projects to meet the specific needs of their particular locality.

IVS membership is open to all people who are willing to work and work hard! The majority of members are between 18 and 25, but there is a good spread on either side. Through all the forms of service, we try to show that voluntary work is not cheap labour, but a way in which helpers are united with those being helped. International Voluntary work can highlight the international dimensions of social problems as well as provide assistance for a community project. Above all, it offers to people an opportunity to help make the kind of society they want.

A practical training session for IVS workcamp leaders.
Photo: T & J Photography

TALKING POINT

Exeter in Fiji

Bob Knight

Seventeen people from seven nations, allowing for Scotland, met at Dor Knap for the second of the four 'open' weekends, in May. The conference was a contribution of Toc H to community relations under the theme Harmony '71. Ann Nacola from Fiji who has joined the Exeter Toc H Lunch Club came with her husband and they signed the Visitors' Book with the address, 'Exeter, Fiji'. So far as we know there is still an Exeter in Devon.

Errol Dickerson, Development Officer of the Community Relations Commission for the South of England, in his opening talk defined the objectives of the Commission. It exists to foster harmonious community relations through local Community Relations Councils, of which there are now 90. The Council employs the Community Relations Officer, his salary being met by equal grants from the Commission and the local authority. The complementary responsibility to sort out complaints of discrimination in any area, such as employment, housing or education, is undertaken by the Race Relations Board.

In Errol's view there is no immigration problem in the UK, since more people leave this country than arrive. There is however an acute race relations problem. As we are already in some measure a multi-racial society, the challenge exists to create an harmonious society. Since we are in the realm of human relationships, the major premise is, as Ben Amonoo from Ghana and husband of Grace, another member of the Exeter Lunch Club, said, a willingness to meet and get to know one another.

James Cummings, a Trinidadian like Errol, is Community Relations Officer at Croydon and a member of our Centre Committee. James questioned whether the Home Office with its responsibilities for police and prisons, is the appropriate government department to be responsible for race relations. He sees his role as not to enable immigrants to conform to their host community, but to enable both immigrants and nationals to be enriched by one another. As a practical example James and his English wife Kathleen enticed us after supper to dance with them to a West Indian steel band.

Opening a review of what Toc H members are doing now, Peter East spoke of his work in Stepney (see the pictures on page 133).

Gerald Calver, fresh from his victory as a Liberal candidate at the local elections in Rugby, asked that we should not forget white immigrants from Europe who have a contribution to make to the harmony we are creating.

The weekend at Dor Knap cannot be repeated until 1972 when we propose to meet again on the second weekend in May. Those at the conference were speaking from their experience all the year round. In other places too, Toc H members have taken the bold step of working explicitly for racial harmony. The South Staffordshire District Team have appointed two members to the Wolverhampton Council for Community Relations, meeting their fees from District funds. Other work has been reported in *Point Three* and the Editor wants still more news.

In reply to those who would argue that if we do nothing the problem will, in the long run, solve itself, Errol quoted Maynard Keynes who, speaking in another context, once said, 'In the long run we are all dead: what do we do in the short run?'

Every Toc H Mark is a living experiment in race relations. The projects are being made known this summer among Community Relations Officers and this may ensure that the groups of volunteers are a wider mixture of men and women. There are three other directions in which Toc H can act:

a) discover and support the local Community Relations Council: if none exists, it may be that the Regional Development Officer is looking for help in creating one. For any Toc H branch wanting the background information, it could be quickly obtained.

b) make sure that the local Community Relations Officer knows of the activities of Toc H branches, and the existence of Marks and projects.

c) invite the CRO to meet a small group representing the different nationalities in the community. He will be glad to share with them what he and his Council are trying to do, and to explain why a particular aspect of community relations is being highlighted.

Getting rid of the poor

Carol Burtchett, Oxford University Group.

Like everyone else we have a co-ordinating committee: and this weekend the representatives of all the socially concerned voluntary organisations which involve students in Oxford were duly co-ordinated for two days to talk about voluntary social work. But this turned out to be a volunteers' get-together with a difference. For once we rapidly forgot the idiosyncracies and preferences of our very varied organisations and started instead to explore aspects of the philosophy of voluntary service which have so far taken few roots in established voluntary bodies.

Our city, while no worse than any other, is certainly no better when it comes to the question of poverty: parts are most pleasant, parts overflow with suffering and discontent. And despite a long catalogue of concerned student and town-based bodies which comprise many dedicated people, we must all honestly admit that our efforts towards creating greater social justice and human dignity are getting nowhere. Poverty and deprivation, physical and social, are very much with us, visible in many apathetic, resigned and crushed personalities. Somehow our present policies and methods of voluntary social work are failing to get to the roots of this most basic form of inequality.

How have we failed? To simplify our discussions we constructed a fourfold typology of voluntary social work approaches which are relevant in this area:

1 **Community Service:** a personal and remedial service seen as an end in itself: eg painting a room for a family with whom no relationship is established.

2 **Radical Community Service:** performing a personal and remedial action but in such a way as to gain greater insight into the implications of the action and the relationship of the volunteer to the person served: eg painting a room and establishing a dynamic relationship with the family concerned.

3 **Community Work:** working directly with groups in the community: eg setting up a centre as a source of otherwise unavailable services and facilities for families.

4 **Community Action:** providing the resources for groups in the community to claim services, which are available in other communities, as their right: eg helping to promote a Claimants' Union or backing (not leading) a rent strike for better housing.

In dealing with the phenomena of inequality and poverty voluntary social work has focused upon types 1 and 2 and to a lesser extent is now focusing on type 3. Few (a notable exception being the Child Poverty Action Group) have ventured into type 4. Community action has all the characteristics which voluntary social work has traditionally shunned: it is political, it is revolutionary, it is socially dangerous and not respectable, and for those who engage in it as volunteers there is little personal gain of any kind because, more than the other three types, this work involves pure and humble service.

At present voluntary social work forms a truncated pyramid, and is thus unable to attack problems such as poverty at a causal level. At the bottom of the pyramid a vast number of people are being involved in 'doing things' and even if this does not increase, it at least maintains, social awareness and helps preserve our most precious humanitarian values. This in fact engenders the possibility of more radical change towards these values, but where is the action to bring about such change? In the truncated voluntary social work pyramid different organisations churn out hundreds of people who are aware of the problems of poverty and deprivation; most of these are half-aware that being poor is not a voluntary state of affairs but rather flows from the nature of society which puts old people on the scrap heap, which provides insufficient adequately paid jobs and provides thoroughly mean and degrading help for those who cannot earn; and at the same time they are mostly unaware of the possibilities of challenging the system at the point where inequality is institutionalised. We churn out people who by and large can think only in terms of patching up the worst cracks in a system which degrades those who receive its hardships and meagre charity and degrades the rest of us who deal the blows and hand out 'help'. In other words our current philosophy of voluntary social work in the basic areas of housing, food, income and economic dignity is geared to diagnosis and palliative treatment not to cure and prevention. We do almost nothing to

help the deprived to seize what is theirs by right, a decent existence.

To do this, to replace degrading acts of charity with the dignity of rights, we have to complete the pyramid, to begin directly to sponsor action on a level which corresponds to the level at which inequality enters the system, the level of political decision making and the wielding of unchallenged power by those who control the distribution of basic resources. Other cities have begun various schemes, here there are only a few small scale attempts. Now is added the joint resolve of all our separate organisations concerned with voluntary social service in Oxford to work out a joint means towards helping the deprived to help themselves by exercising their inherent rights to a fair share in our country's vast and adequate wealth. The form is not certain yet, but it will focus on a big extension of facilities to provide the information and expertise required by those who have hitherto not known how to claim what is theirs or felt degraded by doing so.

A clean and dry house, adequate food, a decent environment about one's house, a secure and adequate income for living and pleasure–all these are but a small portion of everyman's social right, but a small part that seems so far to have eluded the efforts of vast numbers of dedicated volunteers. At last however the volunteers themselves are beginning to question much more seriously the motives behind, and the limitations of, the service which they have so far offered. The solutions we have suggested will no doubt shock some who are deeply involved in giving traditional service towards the poor: we do not mean to criticise but simply to say that such people have done a great job but now is the time to reverse the tide which they have stemmed. If we can build supersonic planes and fly to the moon surely we can get rid of abject poverty once and for all? It should be easy but time and again our hypocrisy comes between the resources and those who, as citizens, have fair claim upon them.

Letters

Money matters

Having read in the May issue the letter 'Money Matters' from Ted Inglis, I am prompted once again to pose the question, 'If one is not prepared to *act* fairly, what is the point and purpose of thinking fairly?' Many people having presumably 'found their own convictions' and listened most patiently to other people's views, resolutely refuse to right any wrongs, particularly if they clash with their own narrow selfish interests.

Like Ted I have grieved for a long time that Toc H spends so much of its time, money and energy on 'palliatives' and the 'begging bowl' under the umbrella of the Welfare State, instead of concentrating on tackling the evils that beset our society, on ways of educating the public in the profitable use of increasing leisure, etc. I believe that taxation, like justice, should not only be fair but *seen* to be fair, and that its heaviest burden should fall on those best able to bear it. I think that if Toc H campaigned for social justice and other desirable reforms and were seen by everyone at large to be doing so, not only would it experience much less difficulty in getting the £5 per head annually from each member, but would also recover the collective 'guts' and unity of purpose which, like the dear old Church of England from which it sprang, it seems to lack today. Surely nobody joins an organisation without expecting to get some benefit from it, whether it be charitable or otherwise, and unless we can satisfy prospective clients in this respect we shall continue to decline. Our basic Christianity demands that we do something constructive rather than charitable for these the weakest of our brethren.

Len Prentis *Ruislip, Middx.*

Be brief

What's wrong with members' writeability these days? Letters seem to come article size or not at all. Do less people write, or are letters just not printed?

Admitted not all would be suitable, but it's nice to know, if written succinctly, provocatively or with wit, what other members are thinking, and much more meaningful than all those so-similar photographs of people handing cheques, cutting cakes, or standing around in aimless groups.

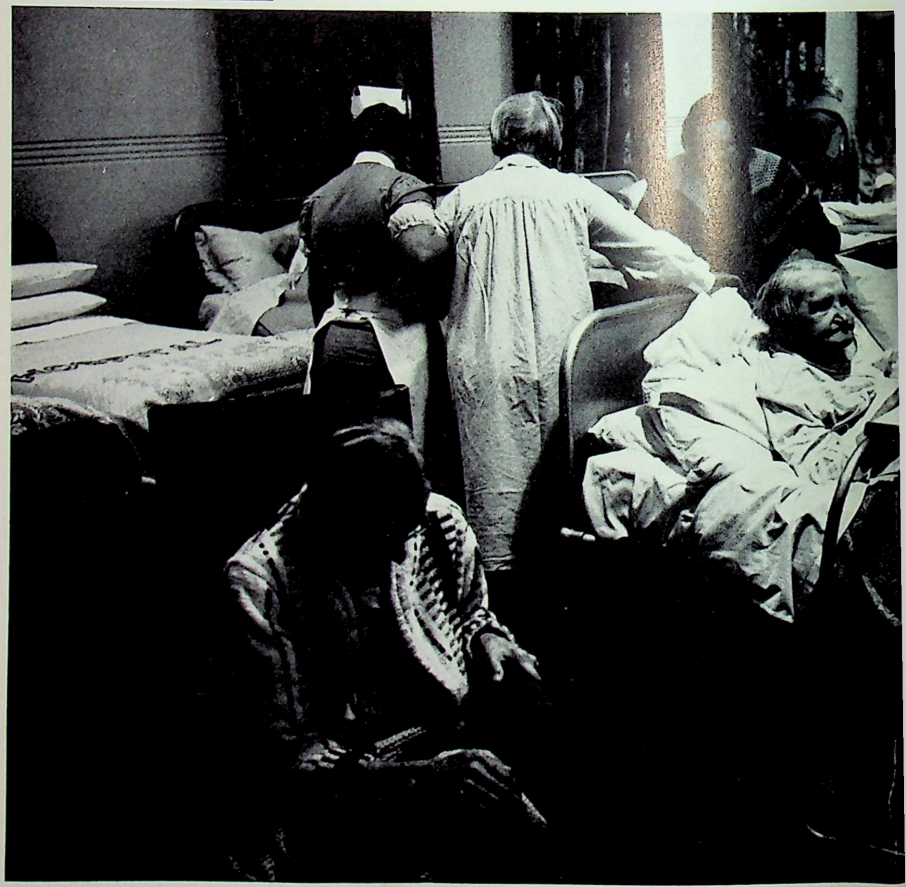
I dare you to publish this one!

Kathleen Gibson *Carshalton Beeches, Surrey*

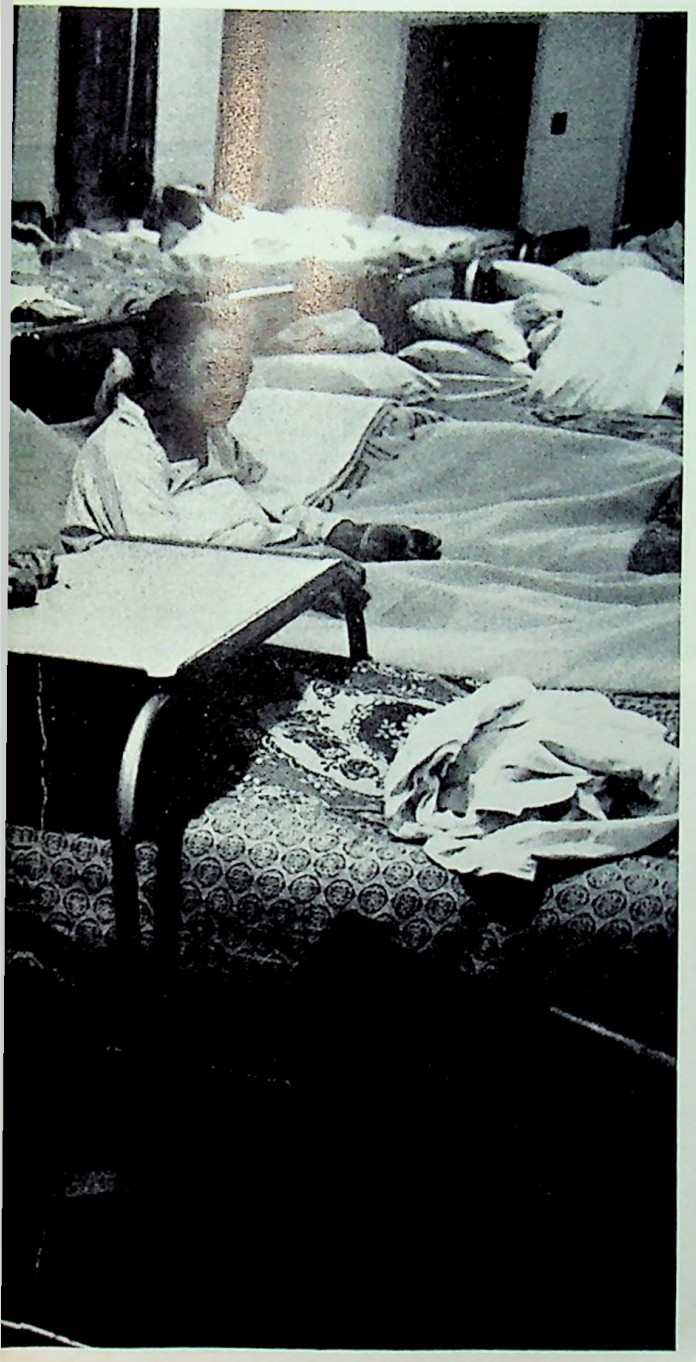
Hear Hear! Ed.

A new call to service

'The mentally ill are not a separate race,' says the Rt Hon David Ennals, Campaign Director of the National Association for Mental Health.



Night time in a psycho-geriatric ward in affluent Britain. Gross overcrowding of this kind is all too common.
Photo: John Brooke for NAMH



Over the past 25 years I have been involved in a number of 'causes' where voluntary service was called for–for refugees, for the world-wide freedom from hunger campaign, for old people, for the war disabled and now for the mentally ill and the handicapped. And in each case Toc H appeared on the honours list of organisations responding to the appeal for service. Wherever there is a job to be done there is a Toc H badge to be found!

I have no hesitation, therefore, in addressing an appeal to Toc H members to help in the MIND Campaign which has been launched this year by the National Association for Mental Health 'to improve the quality of life for the mentally ill and the handicapped' and 'to give the quest for mental health a far higher priority in our national life'.

The campaign was launched with the publication in February of the MIND Manifesto setting out a nine point programme of action by the Government, local authorities and voluntary organisations. It is a call for more resources for research, hospital treatment and community care and for more people of all ages to help in the care of the mentally disordered. The climax of the campaign in 1971 will be MIND Week, from October 17 to 23 and in very many localities campaign committees are now being established to plan the week.

Some people still don't want to know about mental illness. They are a bit frightened about it. 'What's it got to do with me, anyhow?' they say.

But look at the facts. There are far more people suffering from mental disorders than there are unemployed–even with the present high figures for unemployment. Injury and illness of the mind is, numerically, a far bigger problem than homelessness. And often they are the same people, for those who suffer from mental illness or handicap are more likely to be unemployed, ill-housed and poor than the mentally fit.

If you add together all those who are in hospital with a mental condition (46 per cent of all in-patients), those cared for by local authorities, those attending outpatient clinics, the drug addicts, the alcoholics and many of the vagrants, you have about a million people.

Let me put it another way. On current trends more than a million of us who are now mentally fit will seek psychiatric help before 1980. The latest hospital admission figures show that one in six girls now at school and one in nine boys can expect to spend some part of their lives as in-patients in mental hospitals.

But mental disturbance is closer to us than even those figures suggest. There are really no barriers to mark

She spent 25 years in a psychiatric hospital. She now lives in a group home, run by a local mental health association, and housekeeps for the other three inhabitants.

out mental illness from mental health. Just as most mentally ill people have periods of stability and insight so do 'normal' people experience feelings of irrational anxiety and depression. Mental illness may begin as a distortion and exaggeration of moods and emotions which we all share. The mentally ill are not a separate race, divorced from our world and our experience; they are 'we' and we are 'they'.

Yet society still devotes a pathetically small proportion of its resources to mental welfare. At present only 8.5 per cent of the Medical Research Council's budget is devoted to research into mental disorder. Only 13.5 per cent of total NHS expenditure is for mental patients.

Recent reports on Ely and Farleigh subnormality hospitals have presented a disquieting picture of conditions in hospitals for the mentally handicapped. These enquiries were, of course, the result of serious allegations and it would be quite wrong to suppose that ill-treatment and neglect of patients is a normal feature of hospital life. It is always the sensational news that makes the headlines.

But there is still a great deal of overcrowding in old mental hospitals. Such large buildings, designed by the Victorians as secure asylums, isolate the mentally disordered from society and are totally unsuitable for progressive methods of treatment. 65 per cent of British hospitals for the mentally ill were built before 1891–40 per cent more than 100 years ago. 53 hospitals for the mentally ill have more than 1,000 beds–seven have more than 2,000. 17 hospitals for the mentally handicapped have more than 1,000 beds–two have more than 2,000. 15 per cent of patients now in hospitals for the mentally ill are in wards of 50 or more beds; so are 25 per cent of patients in hospitals for the mentally handicapped. There are no lockers for personal possessions for one third of all handicapped adult patients, because wards are crammed with beds. Progressive treatment can only get results in small, homely and manageable units.

About half of the 60,000 patients in our hospitals for the mentally handicapped and about 10,000 long stay patients of mental illness hospitals do not need specialist medical and nursing care. They could leave hospital now if alternative facilities within the community, which local authorities have the power to provide, existed. Thousands of patients could have a new lease of life in the community if a policy of providing sheltered employment, group homes and family supportive care was vigorously pursued.

Along with other organisations like the Richmond Fellowship the National Association for Mental Health and its local mental health associations are proving that it can be done. In one of our group homes the four residents had clocked up 125 years as hospital in-patients before they were provided with a little house in which to start a new life for themselves. And they have settled down wonderfully. Elsewhere we run schools for maladjusted children, hostels for educationally subnormal teenagers, day centres, social clubs, pre-school play groups and regular hospital visiting schemes. It is wonderful rewarding work with many opportunities for voluntary service.

The MIND Campaign is designed to challenge apathy and neglect about the plight of the mentally ill and handicapped, to mobilise voluntary help and to raise funds for the work of the National Association for Mental Health and its local associations. Money is urgently needed to develop its work. Fund raising activities will include a house to house collection and it is hoped as a result to substantially *increase* the number of hostels, group homes and other services in the community.

We expect the active support of hospital and local authorities through the new Social Services Departments set up on the advice of the Seebohm Committee. We are assured also of the support of very many voluntary organisations, church groups and youth and student groups.

One of our aims is to establish mental health associations in places where they do not at present exist as a local spearhead for action on behalf of young and old people suffering mental distress.

This is a new call to service to which I am sure Toc H members will respond. For more information please write to me at NAMH, 39 Queen Anne Street, London W1.

Harmony '71

Following last year's successful weekend camp for the Pakistani boys who belong to the youth club run by residents of Talbot House, Tower Hill, an ambitious programme has been planned this year. Most weekends through the summer groups of boys will be going from Tower Hamlets to camp in the country under the leadership of Peter East and other residents of Talbot House, Ashok Basudev, a Tower Hamlets youth officer and adult members of the Pakistani community. The camp pictured here was at Coombe Farm, a spastics centre near Croydon, and was arranged by Nancy Griffiths, of the South Eastern Regional staff.

RIGHT. Ashok Basudev, Tower Hamlets youth officer (left), and Peter East, warden of Talbot House, Tower Hill (centre), led the camp jointly. Transport was provided by 'Martha' and the South Eastern Region minibus.

BELOW. Among the adult members of the Pakistani community who are helping with the camping programme is Mr Jobba (centre rear, wearing jacket). The photos were taken by Geoff Ibbotson, deputy warden of Talbot House.

NEWSPOINT

AT THE CENTRE OF THINGS

George Cook, *Point Three* correspondent

John Storer House, the social service centre in Loughborough, has completed its first five years of usefulness, and its anniversary is to be celebrated by a series of events. A Mayoral reception, an open day for the town's Abbeyfield Houses, an anniversary dance, a coffee morning and luncheon party for housebound folk will all draw their quota of support.

But the event which is likely to attract most attention is a special evening service in All Saints Church. The attraction lies in the fact that the congregation will be addressed, or rather led in a dialogue, by Mr Fred Brown. Billed as 'Loughborough's own evangelist' it was he who, as a major in the Salvation Army, met Salvation Army chiefs in a head on clash over his controversial book, *Secular Evangelism*. Refusing to change the text to comply with their demands, he resigned from the Army. Fred Brown was a Loughborough Limehurst schoolboy, became a professional footballer with Nottingham Forest before the war, and later ran the Salvation Army's Regent Hall in London.

For Storer House the past five years have been busy ones. Loughborough's seniors have met there, it has been a focal point for social endeavours, a rendezvous for youth and pre-school play groups and other activities.

Toc H was connected with the scheme even before the building stage, so it was no surprise when the then chairman of the John Storer Foundation, Mr T S Fielding, ex Toc H member and retired headmaster, invited Loughborough branch to have their HQ there. A great advantage of this is that with nearly everything that takes place the branch is in the picture, and it has been privileged to introduce several schemes–the large print book service, parties for the housebound, socials, and so on. The branch is represented on most of the town's voluntary services.

Bakewell present Bibles

Bakewell branch, Derbyshire, established a memorial fund for Charles Coven, a former branch pilot, who died in November 1969. The sum of £23 was contributed and handed to the Gideons, the society which presents the bibles you find in most hotel rooms in Britain and, for that matter, America. The Gideons have placed bibles in two Bakewell hospitals for the use of patients, inscribed in memory of Charles, and have also given copies of the New Testament to the staff. The bibles were recently dedicated in a service which, says *Point Three* correspondent Edwin Harrison, 'was notable for its delightful informality. There was a very real sense of love and caring.'

Birmingham night shelter opens

The Night Shelter for homeless men at St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham, the plans for which were the subject of an article in our April issue, opened at the beginning of May. The Shelter, which is sponsored jointly by Toc H, Christian Action, the Samaritans and the cathedral authorities, was fully used right from the start. In fact, during its first 12 nights it accommodated in all 156 men, which proves beyond any shadow of doubt the urgent need for this kind of provision in Birmingham.

44 years

Another record of long and faithful service has reached us–this time from Harpenden, Hertfordshire. Roy Humphries joined the branch in May 1927 and has thus completed 44 years' service. Not only is he still active himself but he ensures, as jobmaster, that the newer members are active too.

Three projects in Belgium this summer

There will be three projects in Belgium this summer. On July 14 a party will be travelling to Antwerp to spend two weeks working alongside volunteers from Belgium and Holland at the St Josefinstitut for physically handicapped girls. This will be followed immediately by a painting and decorating project at the Grey Cat, a children's club in Antwerp's dockland, which has been the scene of several previous Toc H projects. Finally in August a mixed group of members and Volunteers, young and not so young, will be doing 10 days' maintenance work at the Old House itself, under the direction of Antoni Lamont van Brabant, husband of the new housekeeper. Already a number of Poperinge young people have volunteered to help with the work.

GUEST NIGHTS ARE DEAD TO BEGIN WITH

Keith Beck

Guest nights are dead to begin with–or so Dickens might have said. The old style of District Rally has also largely vanished, and there is little to take the place of either function. Down in Somerset, among the cuckoos and cowslips, something has emerged which has happily combined the best of both departed functions; the South Somerset Toc H Men's Supper Club.

Meeting four times a year, the ingredients are a good country or small town hotel with good food, a first class speaker on any subject except Toc H (!), and up to 50 Toc H men and guests. The Supper Club circulates round half a dozen meeting places within a radius of 20 miles, where a buffet supper can be obtained at a reasonable price (anything from 20p to 40p). Members from about eight branches regularly support the meetings–and there are often members from across the border in Devon. Area members, Builders, and possible future members, are also to be found at the meetings.

Speakers have included a headmaster on 'The purpose of education'; the Town Clerk of Taunton (a member of Toc H) on 'The Maud Report'; an orthopaedic surgeon on 'Accident surgery'; an engineer on 'Motorways'; a Methodist minister on 'Birmingham's immigrants'; a former Professor of Medicine on 'Hypothermia and nutrition', and speakers on other subjects of general interest, such as 'The Admiralty Chart', 'Cyprus', and 'The Mediterranean scene'. And there is a good list of future speakers ready to be invited during the next couple of years!

Not only the speakers and the inevitable discussion and questions which ensue, but the fellowship of the meal, with the opportunity to meet old friends and make new ones, have recaptured something which we have been in danger of losing in Toc H in recent years.

Good things are meant to be shared! It was not long before other Districts had wind of what was happening and were asking for details. Plymouth has held several successful meetings, which have been for both men and women; Blackmore Vale District has also attempted something similar, but on a reduced scale; even Districts outside our South West Area have been known to borrow ideas, and Wessex District has had a number of similar meetings. If your guest night is 'dead, but won't lie down', and District Rallies are a farce, the men of Somerset offer you their own answer–at least you can try it, and who knows, perhaps cider apples aren't the only good thing Somerset can grow!

'Tubby' asks for a gift of 700 scouters

Geoffrey Bricher

If Toc H has a problem, it must surely be one of recruitment. Scouting, too, has a recruiting problem–but with a difference. So successful was a recent membership drive that there is at present a serious shortage of leaders for 8,000 hopefuls now in the movement. The position, as outlined by 'Tubby', is that there are 'too many fish for the fishermen to catch'.

His answer, typically, is that the 'size of the catch should not be reduced, but that the number of fishermen must be increased!'

'Tubby', accompanied by Neil Thornton, 'dropped in' on Chislehurst branch at a specially convened meeting of members (and how!) at the home of jobmaster 'Slim' Drage on Sunday, April 25. There he outlined Scouting's need, and the response which he wanted to see from Toc H.

'I would like to see every branch of Toc H find, or supply, at least one Scouter,' he said; 'it need be only partially done to produce another 700 Scouters in this country. It would be the best gift we could give to Scouting'.

At one time–25 to 30 years ago–Toc H supplied Scouting's needs. 'Tubby' regretted that this was no longer so.

Chislehurst branch already makes quite a contribution to Scouting; it has a District Commissioner in Jim Cobby, the branch's immediate past-chairman, and active in the local Guild of Old Scouts are 'Slim' Drage and Fred Gordon.

Before returning to London 'Tubby' heard and gave his approval to plans by Chislehurst formally to recruit to their cause, with recognition as 'junior Toc H helpers', the children of members who, each year, assist in log cutting operations and jumble sale preparations.

Annual concert

Marjorie Rorke writes to tell us of another successful party arranged by Streatham women's branch, in south London, for the patients–who are also Toc H Builders–at the British Home and Hospital for Incurables. Once again a group of young people provided the entertainment. A concert of a very high standard was given by David and Brian Sutton and Andrew Forrester (piano), Nicholas Morgan (violin) and Colin Fish ('cello). Hugh Eaton proved himself a very capable conjuror and folk songs were sung by a group of Girl Guides. 'All the young performers,' says Marjorie, 'said how much they hope to be invited back next year–and with what pleasure we shall invite them again!'

LAMBOURNE END COMES BACK TO LIFE

Lambourne End is a 23 acre camp site near Chigwell, Essex, owned by the East End Methodist Mission. The hut on the site has, during the past few years, become derelict and the site overgrown with weeds. Recently a group of youth workers in Stepney, with other local people, determined to revive the camp site so that East End children could once again get out into the country. For this purpose the Stepney Children's Camping Association has been formed. Toc H helped in the formation of the Association and has two representatives on the committee.

During the spring two weekend projects and one full week project were held at Lambourne End. According to John Burgess, of the South Eastern Regional staff, the work has included 'repairing such things as broken windows, toilets, washbasins, showers, electrical points and lights, the 'fridge and the water heater; sterilising the kitchen; decorating throughout; re-roofing; boarding up broken asbestos panels; making good the sewage cesspool; cutting down overgrown brambles and trees and throwing away accumulated rubbish and unnecessary equipment'.

The West Essex and Havering Districts have also played their part in bringing the Lambourne End camp site to life again. Several local members have spent Saturdays and Sundays working on the site and, equally important, a great deal of essential equipment has been 'scrounged'–tables, chairs, cutlery, crockery, and cooking pots. The Camping Association has raised money for the purchase of tents and other camping equipment. As a result of this co-operative effort, between 100 and 150 children will be camping at Lambourne End every weekend this summer.

John Burgess, of the South Eastern Regional staff, took these photographs during the full week project at Lambourne End, held during the Easter holidays. The pictures give some impression of the variety and quantity of work involved in bringing this campsite back to life. Lambourne End will be providing anything up to 150 children every weekend with the opportunity of getting out of London's East End.

Tense finish to quiz competition

Over 100 people attended the tense and nerve wracking final of the Northamptonshire District quiz, details of which were given in our April issue. The final was between Rushden and Higham Ferrers men's branches. Reports *Point Three* correspondent Ted Curry: 'At the end of six rounds of questions the scores were level, and so the two captains faced an additional round of questions and still the scores were level. So it was agreed that each branch should hold the cup for six months. This contest has proved very popular throughout the District, despite initial fears, and the organisers are to be congratulated on producing a well worthwhile event, which it is expected will be repeated at some future date.'

'MARTHA' ON A SPONSORED WALK

Nancy Griffiths

During the weekend of May 1-2, 'Martha' took an active part in the Croydon Youth Council sponsored walk from Wrotham to Canterbury along the Pilgrims' Way, to raise money for the Cyrenians. 108 young people, including a few who had been on Toc H projects, gathered at the YMCA, Croydon, and were taken to 'The Pilgrim's Rest' at Wrotham. 'Martha' took Mrs Jean Walton, hon treasurer of the Croydon Toc H Centre, and two other helpers, also the First Aid man, and provided two coffee stops along the route.

A long gap separated the first and last walkers, so 'Martha' was stationed at the coffee stops for some time, until everyone who wanted refreshment had been served, but the helpers managed an hour's sleep in the vehicle before dawn, and moved off to Canterbury and breakfast on the Sunday morning.

Despite blistered feet and aching legs, a good proportion of the walkers finished the course. 'Martha' gave a lift to a few who could not make it, but the majority plodded on in the sunshine.

Flashing lights go 'down under'

Brian Golding, a member of Downend branch until he emigrated to Western Australia, believes that there is a need for a flashing light emergency scheme for the elderly in his new homeland. Remembering that South Gloucestershire was one of the first parts of the country to experiment with these schemes, he wrote to Mrs Mary Aitchison, chairman of Mangotsfield old people's welfare committee, with the result that one of the Mangotsfield alarms has been sent out to him as a sample. So Toc H may well be instrumental in launching this emergency scheme in Australia.

Your town for the disabled

Keith Beck

How many shops could you enter in your town if you were confined to a wheel chair? Could you get your hair cut, except at home, if you had to use crutches? Could you use the library if you had to walk with crutches or sticks? Can anyone who is disabled use the public conveniences without the agony of physical contortions? The answer to these questions, and a multitude of similar ones, is not easy to obtain, even for your own town. How much more difficult for the visitor on holiday!

Fortunately, there are a number of towns where such information is available, thanks to the existence of a *Guide for the Disabled*. In various instances, Toc H can claim some–or even all–the credit for this. At Taunton, members helped in the survey of all public buildings, places of entertainment, hotels and pubs (always a popular survey!), shops and other buildings, and in the actual compilation and editing of the *Guide*. Paignton men's branch have had a long history of concern for the needs of the disabled–a pioneer survey of the town's public 'inconveniences' followed by a letter to the appropriate department of the local council, resulted in structural alterations of some buildings–and the branch carried out much of the survey of Brixham in connection with a *Guide to Torbay*. Toc H members in Plymouth assisted in the preparation of the *Guide* to Plymouth, and Falmouth Toc H have excelled in producing a 'do it yourself' publication–survey, editing, publishing, being entirely the work of the local branches.

Taking part in a survey has usually been an 'eye-opener' for those concerned, and has not been without its humour–if being watched very suspiciously by members of the police appeals to you, here is your golden opportunity! Hundreds of hours of survey, with measurements of doorways, number of steps, provision of handrails or lack of them (all too often the latter) and the collation of the total material afterwards, offer several months' work to any Toc H branch which may contemplate the task. Often the local Council of Social Service has been the sponsoring body, but there is usually the need for someone to 'set the ball rolling'–and who better than your Toc H branch?

Local government departments and private business concerns alike are often quite unaware of the inability of disabled persons to use the facilities provided. The provision of a ramp or even of a handrail may make all the difference, and a welcome result of some surveys has been the readiness of officials and businessmen to make such changes when the need has been made apparent.

The need for such *Guides*, especially in our holiday towns, is very great indeed. Toc H can do much to awaken public interest and initiate action on behalf of the large minority who are so much less mobile. But this work must be done carefully and thoroughly, and expert advice on the methods is required. Full details of all that is involved in producing a *Guide for the Disabled* may be obtained from Access for the Disabled, 34 Eccleston Square, London SW1.

How about your town? Can you answer the questions with which we began? Does anyone know the answers? If not, how about being the necessary nuisance that asks the questions in public and invites others to join in finding out the answers and making them available for the man in the wheelchair, the woman on crutches, the old person walking with the aid of a stick?

25 YEARS' SERVICE TO THE BLIND

The Toc H blind social club in Wembley, London, celebrates its 25th birthday this year. It was the first social club of its kind in the borough and continues to run a flourishing and well supported programme. Lord Arran, the journalist, and Mr Bob Danvers Walker, the naturalist, are just two of the famous people who have been speakers at the club's fortnightly meetings. 'From time to time,' says Mrs D W Goodall, secretary of the club throughout the 25 years, 'we have had film or slide shows, which may seem rather odd for a club for blind people, but with a good speaker and detailed information as to what was being shown, those who could not see had an excellent mind picture; in fact the first of these ventures was suggested by a completely blind lady'.

The club regularly organises visits to places of interest and there is an annual outing to the seaside–'I think we've visited every resort within easy reach on two or more occasions,' says Mrs Goodall. Every Mayor of the borough has visited the club during his year of office and the club also receives the support of the local authority social services department, which provides transport to the club and meets the cost of the annual outing. The club's only real problem as it starts its second 25 years is a shortage of voluntary helpers.

Birthday seat donated

Reading women's branch celebrated their 40th birthday not just with a birthday cake but with a birthday seat. To commemorate the event the branch is donating a seat to be put in a public place in the town. More than 50 people attended the celebrations and the cake was cut by Alice Waters, a founder member of the branch.

Faces at headquarters — four

'Builders are our friends'

Huw Gibbs

An interesting side benefit of Toc H membership is that people connected with the Movement actually *make themselves known to you* in the street. All sorts of organisations claim this distinction from boisterous Buffaloes to white collar unions but, apart from a vague wave from an AA patrolman at Watford trying to tell me that my exhaust pipe was about to fall off, it had never happened to me. That is until I was nudged in the ribs by an elderly gentleman while travelling on a crowded commuter train who confided, 'I'm a builder'. At the time I had only been on the staff for a few months, and I had dreadful visions of arriving home that night to explain to my wife that I had been conned into buying a complete central heating system by a 'travelling' salesman. But my companion, seeing my bemused expression, quickly explained his opening remark and since that day I have had a soft spot for the people who support Toc H under this scheme.

It may not be widely known that the name derives from the Liverpool Cathedral Builders, and was legitimately adopted by Toc H in 1927. Tubby introduced the scheme by saying, 'this is something quite different from a public appeal which will bring in not just money but the minds and wills and love of people'. My experience seems to bear out that this is still true, and it is a pity that in spite of constant efforts to promote the scheme a decline in numbers must again be recorded this year. At the moment there are 5246 active Builders. The new figure includes the transfer of 2364 supporters from the Women's Association records, and while the enrolment in the same period of 268 new Builders can be reported this compares dismally with 584 lapses for varied reasons and 25 others rejoining as branch members. While it is nice to know that supporters will come back into full circulation again it must be recognised that their number needs to be made up by encouraging new people to accept a commitment under the Builders scheme.

In an appeal for more Builders at the end of last year, Les Wheatley, the Registrar, wrote, 'While subscriptions remain reasonably healthy, and constitute in total a tremendous strength to the Family Purse, they are, nevertheless, a decreasing asset.' It would be a great loss if this scheme eventually faded away. Toc H has retreated from so many exciting fields since it started, and surely it is admitting defeat when a Movement like ours, which likes to think that it makes lifetime friends of all who come into contact, may one day have to accept that it is unable to inspire men and women to support its endeavours with regular contributions and goodwill. This is a local affair and responsibility lies fair and square across the shoulders of every branch in the country.

Les Wheatley took over the office from Eric Caulton, with a new title of Registrar. Visitors will find him on the third floor at 15 Trinity Square in an office overlooking the Tower of London. From the nicely shaped window you can see the contortions of the escapologists on Tower Hill and their summer afternoons are accompanied by 'the cracking of a whip' as the buskers drum up enough customers to pass round a hat. In the middle of an impressive battery of record cards and filing cabinets sits Les, who surely must be the person the GPO had in mind when they coined the slogan 'someone, somewhere needs a letter from you'. He told me that 'one of the pleasant features of the job is renewing contacts with many former members and friends who now support the Movement as Builders'.

Far left: Les Wheatley
Left: Barbara Henson
Below: Phyllis James

Les Wheatley joined the staff in 1927, and is the oldest serving staff member at present. His first job was secretary to the Northern Area Padre. Something of a distinction because it was the first Padre appointment in the north of England. This was followed by a spell of duty in Yorkshire before being transferred to HQ as Rex Calkin's assistant. This was to be the first of three periods working at HQ. During the war Les served with the infantry and later with the RASC. When the war ended he was asked to stay in Germany to undertake extension work. 'A depressing period for everybody', he recalled, 'because uppermost in everyone's mind was demob and returning home again.' After a second period at HQ he worked in south and south/east London for eight years. Between 1953 and 1961 he was Area Secretary in Nottingham, moving then for a short period to Newcastle. He was appointed Assistant General Secretary in 1964, working with Cyril Cattell, and took his present appointment in May last year.

Les was born in Newcastle in 1907 and became a member of that branch in 1926. 'I was at the swimming baths, what we used to call a "penny stinker", when John Wild, son of the then Bishop of Newcastle, popped up and said, "how do you do, do you know Toc H?" ' With an introduction like that it's not surprising that Les has been in the swim ever since.

I challenged Les to isolate the most significant change in his long service and he replied that, 'there was a time when Toc H was always out in front creating policy as it went along and leading men into exciting new situations. But now instead of making things happen as we used to do, we are fitting in with things as they happen. Today we are accepting life instead of creating it.'

Les is married to Molly (see description of the Accounts Office *Point Three* April) and has a son and a daughter.

Barbara Henson has worked in the Builders office for 5½ years. Before joining us she worked with an Horticultural Association whose principal activities might be described today as environmental planning. For eleven years she was secretary to the Vicar of St Phillip's Church in the Earls Court Road. Although she is not a member she is keenly interested in Toc H affairs. Barbara was born at Streatham Hill, South London.

Phyllis James came to Toc H after completing the typing of a medical dictionary for the Radio Doctor. 'It took six months to compile and includes everything from Abdomen to Zymotic,' she said. She has worked in the office for two years now and enjoys contributing to community work, although she is not a member of Toc H. Phyllis was born in Upminster, Essex, and is married with two daughters.

About Face

Due to a mix-up in the editorial office during the preparation of the article 'Leadership sideways' Ivy Jenkins underwent instant surgery to re-appear looking like Barbara Henson. We apologise for this lapse and hope that this properly titled amendment averts any embarrassment.

Obituary

We regret to announce the death, in May, of Cmmdr Frederick G Wynne OBE, an Association Vice-President, Chairman of Talbot House Seafaring Boys' Club, Southampton, and a Southern Area member, and of Mrs Ermie de Villiers, the National Pilot of Toc H Women's Association, South Africa.

And of the following members: In January: The Rev Edward Harper (Leicester). **In February:** Dorothy E Haines (Tottenham). **In March:** B Dengate (Preston Park), Francis M Elliott (Worthing Central), Martin Irving (Gretna), Margaret S Williams (Oswestry). **In April:** Ethel M Hack (Ipswich), Frank H Longman (Bebington), William J Randall (Lambeth Central). **In May:** Frank A Barr (East Midlands Area), Walter R Barrett (Wimborne), Aileen Godden (Bath), Charles W E Pitt (Worthing), Donald Purnell (Waterlooville), Arthur W Sparkes (Swanage).

We give thanks for their lives.

PICTUREPOINT

One of the guests arrives for a Loughborough branch party for the housebound, escorted by Tommy Harkins, jobmaster and newest member of the branch. This event took place at John Storer House (see story on page 134).
Photo: John Dracote

Taking a mobile shop round the wards of Hartlepool General Hospital is one of the most appreciated of the jobs undertaken by the women's branches in the town and as well as providing a valued service it also makes a profit. This profit is used to provide amenities for the hospital, the latest of which is an ambu-lift. Mrs Jenny Atkinson, secretary of the trolly shop service, is seen here with the chairman of the hospital's house committee (right).
Photo: Northern Daily Mail

An attractive feature of the market arranged by the women's branch in Southborough, Kent, was this jewellery tree. In charge was Mrs Nancy Holland (left).
Photo: Kent & Sussex Courier

Members of Street & Glastonbury women's branch taking part in a two hour knit-in. Through sponsorship, at the rate of 1p or 2p per inch, they raised funds for a camp for under privileged boys from Bristol, organised by the Mid-Somerset District. And the results of their work were later made into blankets for LEPRA.
Photo: Brian Walker

Small Advertisements

Small advertisements must be received (with remittance) by the first day of the month preceding publication. The charge is 3p a word (minimum 30p). *Point Three* Magazine, Toc H, 41 Trinity Square, London EC3N 4DJ. Telephone 01-709 0472.

HAVE YOU BOOKED your summer holiday yet? It is not too late to come to WARDEN MANOR. Some vacancies July 3-17, July 24-31 and August 14-September 4. Cost £8.75 to £9.75 weekly. Write or phone John Cole, (host/leader), Warden Manor, Eastchurch, Kent. Tel: Eastchurch 238.

BRUGES, BELGIUM. Hotel Jacobs welcomes Toc H parties and individual visitors to this lovely old city. Within easy reach of other famous cities of art, and of coast. Good food and comfortable accommodation in friendly atmosphere. Pleasant restaurant, bar and lounge. Parking. English spoken. Strongly recommended. Write for brochure and terms to Mr Jules Lietaert, HOTEL JACOBS, Baliestraat 1, Bruges, Belgium.

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Next month in Point Three

Jack Weber writes on the role of the Central Councillor

We feature community service undertaken by young Jewish people

A Swindon member writes about the possibility of 'churchless religion'

Together with news and pictures of Toc H activities around the country

All in the August Point Three

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TOC H

cotswold festival

Patrons: The Hon Angus Ogilvy, Lord Dulverton, The Bishop of Worcester, Sir Gordon Russell

On Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th September 1971

Saturday:
Blockley Brass Band
New Anglian Singers
An Occasional Sextet
'The Taming of the Shrew'

Sunday:
Chipping Campden Morris Dancers
Taragon (Folk Music)
The Lythwood Players
New Anglian Singers

Weaving and traditional crafts will be demonstrated by Mary Osborn of the Stanton Guildhouse

Exhibition of Sculpture, Pottery, Woodcarvings, Copper and Silverware, and Paintings from The Bourton Galleries and members of Toc H

at Dor Knap, Middle Hill, Broadway, Worcestershire (overlooking the Vale of Evesham)

Grounds open from 1.00 pm (performances throughout each day commencing at 3.00 pm in natural amphitheatre. Evening performances 7.15 pm)

Light refreshments available

Tickets: 50p per day, from The Toc H Cotswold Festival, Dor Knap, Broadway, Worcs.

In the event of bad weather performances will continue indoors

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To: Toc H Cotswold Festival, Dor Knap, Broadway, Worcestershire

Please send ..... tickets at 50p each for SATURDAY September 4* SUNDAY September 5* for which a postal order*/cheque* is enclosed to the value of £.....

NAME: (Mrs/Miss/Mr*) .....(Block letters)

ADDRESS: .....

.....

Please enclose stamped addressed envelope with order

*Delete words which do not apply